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ALEXANDRIA, Va

A federal judge Friday denied a request to dismiss charges against ex- CIA agent Edwin P. Wilson, who is charged with illegally exporting weapons to Libya.

Wilson's attorney, Herald Fahringer, argued in U.S. District Court that the government used fraud and deception to get Wilson back to the United States to stand trial.

He said Wilson was lured back to the country on the belief that he wouldn't be prosecuted if he agreed to help the National Security Council set up an intelligence project in Central America.

Wilson's attorney said Wilson was shown a letter making that promise. But government lawyers say the letter was a forgery and had been passed by a private citizen and not a representative of the security council.

Judge Oren Lewis said Wilson was an expert in intrigue and that he would be surprised if Wilson acted on a false letter. Lewis has accused both sides of trying to delay the case, scheduled for Nov. 15.

Wilson is charged here with one count of conspiracy and seven counts of shipping firearms out of the country. He also faces related charges in Houston and the District of Columbia.

A Washington, D.C., judge recently rejected similar attempts to clear Wilson of federal charges.

In another development related to the Wilson case, an Air Force major general filed suit Friday against Douglas Schlachter, a former aide to Wilson, charging that Schlachter libelled him in a television broadcast a year ago by linking him to Wilson.

Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord, who serves as deputy assistant secretary of defense for Near Eastern, African and South Asian affairs, said in his suit he had lost a promotion and suffered damage to his reputation.

Schlachter is cooperating with prosecutors and is under federal protection as a witness.